

# City of Chichester.

## PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES.

### SANITARY COMMITTEE.

28th January, 1898.—At a Meeting of the Committee—Present, The Mayor, Alderman Smith, Councillors Lake, Budden, Chase, Ballard, Evans.

1. ~~The minutes of the last Meeting are signed.~~
2. ~~Accounts are passed amounting to £171 11s. 3d. District Fund.~~
3. The Medical Officer of Health reads his report for the past year as follows:—

“ WEST STREET, CHICHESTER,

“ 28th January, 1898.

“ *To the Worshipful the Mayor, the Aldermen, and the Town Councillors, the Sanitary Authority of the City of Chichester.*

“ GENTLEMEN,—

“ I beg respectfully to lay before you my Annual Report of the public health of the City for the year 1897.

“ The number of births during the year has been 293—viz., 161 males, and 132 females—a decrease on the year 1896 of 25, which was 318 (the number of males, however, being *exactly the same*), but an increase of 32 on that of 1895, which was 261; and estimating the population of the City, with the increase of births over deaths, for the first half-year to be, in round numbers, 10,800, and in the second half-year, with the addition to the population of the district of about 450 by the opening of the West Sussex County Asylum, to be 11,250, the birth-rate has been, for first half-year, 25 per 1000 per annum, and for the second half-year, 27·8, and that for the whole year, 26·4; that for 1896 was 29·7, and that for 1895 was 24·6 per 1000 per annum. In the 1st quarter there were 42 males and 36 females; 2nd quarter, 33 males and 25 females; 3rd quarter, 44 males and 36 females; and 4th quarter, 42 males and 35 females.

“ The number of deaths registered during the year, exclusive of non-residents at the Infirmary and the West Sussex County Asylum, has been 197—viz., 93 males and 104 females,—the increase of births over deaths has, therefore, been 96; the increase in 1896 being 120. In the 1st quarter there were 54 (viz., 29 males and 25 females), with a death-rate of 20 per 1000 per annum; in the 2nd quarter, 39 (viz., 17 males and 22 females), with a death-rate of only 14·4 per 1000 per annum; in the 3rd quarter, 52 (viz., 25 males and 27 females), with a death-rate of 18·4; and in the 4th quarter there were also 52 (22 males and 30 females), with a death-rate of 18·4; and the death-rate for the whole year has been 17·5; the deaths in 1896 being 198, with a death-rate of 18·5 per 1000 per annum; and although the death-rate for 1897 is lower than that of 1896, it is still high; but this for the most part is to be accounted for by the large number of 84 of persons over 60 years of age, while there was also the large number of 82 deaths over 60 years of age in 1896. The average death-rate of the 33 largest towns in England for 1896 was 18·9 per 1000 per annum.



PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

SANITARY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Committee - Present: The Mayor, Aldermen Smith, Councilmen Lake, Graham, Clark, Bellamy, Evans

1. The report of the Sanitary Committee for the year 1897.
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Resolved: That the report of the Sanitary Committee for the year 1897 be adopted.

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Resolved: That the report of the Sanitary Committee for the year 1910 be adopted.

Resolved: That the report of the Sanitary Committee for the year 1911 be adopted.

Resolved: That the report of the Sanitary Committee for the year 1912 be adopted.

Resolved: That the report of the Sanitary Committee for the year 1913 be adopted.



“The following table shows the ages at which the deaths occurred :—

Under 1 year .....	38	} under 5 years of age,
1 year and under 5 years .....	15	
5 years       ,,   15 years .....	10	53
15 years       ,,   25 years .....	11	
25 years       ,,   65 years .....	56	
65 years and upwards.....	67	
———— 197		

“The deaths of persons between 60 and 70 years of age have been 31, between 70 and 80 there were 34, between 80 and 90 there were 18, and 1 at 90 years,—these making up the above-mentioned number of 84 over 60 years of age.

“There were 15 persons from a distance who died at the Infirmary, their ages being, under 15 years, 6 ; 15 and under 25, 5 ; 25 and under 65, 3 ; and over 65, 1.

“There were 17 deaths at the Workhouse, the ages of the older ones were 1 between 60 and 70 years, 4 between 70 and 80, 5 between 80 and 90, and 1 at 90 years.

“The deaths from Infectious and other Zymotic Diseases during the year were only 29, and consisted of the following :—

Phthisis.....	10	and 3 at the W.S.C. Asylum	} 4
		(from a distance).	
Typhoid fever .....	6	and 1 at the Asylum	
Whooping cough.....	6		
Diarrhoea .....	3		
Measles .....	2		
Scarlet fever.....	1		
Diphtheria .....	1		
———— 29 and 4 at the Asylum.			

“There were 148 Notifications of Infectious Diseases in 1897 (exclusive of 7 from the Infirmary of persons from a distance), there having been 170 in 1896, showing a decrease of 22 in 1897 ; and the following Table gives the notifications in detail :—

Typhoid fever.....	129	those of 1896 being	117
Scarlet fever .....	7	„       „	20
Diphtheria .....	6	„       „	18
Erysipelas .....	4	„       „	11
Puerperal fever .....	2	„       „	1
—— Small pox .....			2
148 Membraneous croup			1
————			170

And although there were 12 more notifications of typhoid fever in 1897 than in 1896, there was a large proportion of the former of a mild form, about one-third of them being of a severe type of the disease, and there were only six deaths from it. all the remainder making a safe recovery.

“There were 101 houses affected in the 129 cases of Typhoid Fever, and of this number 72 houses were drained, and 29 not drained ; and 68 were supplied with the Corporation Water, and 33 were using Well Water ; and the families were supplied with Milk from 15 different sources.

“There were 39 cases admitted into the Isolation Hospital during the year, 34 of them suffering from typhoid fever, and sent in between the 5th of August and the 28th of October, two cases of scarlet fever, and two of





diphtheria, and one doubtful case *un-notified*, and although there were several very severe cases, there was only one death, and that from diphtheria, all the rest making satisfactory recoveries. There were 25 cases of typhoid fever taken into the Infirmary from *within* the District, and one nurse and one servant failed with it in there, making 27 cases there within the District, and there were three deaths in this number; and there were 7 cases of this disease admitted of persons from a distance, all of whom recovered. There was no case of typhoid fever admitted into the Workhouse during the year.

“The houses of all the cases of notification were promptly visited by me, and instructions given for isolation, disinfection, and in general sanitary arrangements.

“The Tables marked *A. & B.* comprising further details in a tabulated form, of the births and deaths and various diseases, and the notifications of infectious diseases that have occurred within the district during the year 1897, as required by the Local Government Board are completed, and accompany this Report.

“I have made upwards of 180 domiciliary visits during the year with reference to notifications, complaints of nuisances, &c., the details of which have been duly laid before the Sanitary Committee at their monthly meetings, and I have visited the Isolation Hospital weekly, and often twice a week.

“There have been 103 fresh houses supplied with the water from the Chichester Water Works, raising the number from 1553 at the end of 1896, to 1656 at the end of 1897.

“It will have been observed that the district was again unfortunately visited by a severe epidemic of typhoid fever during the past year, similar to that of 1896, the disease occurring in the same localities and amongst the same class of people, nearly the whole of them being of the lowest class, only a very few (about 5 or 6) being of the lower middle class, and while it has been impossible to attribute the outbreak to any special or particular cause such as usually is the case, viz., to inefficient drainage, foul water, or impure milk, the various cases occurring in houses that were drained as well as in those that were not drained, and also where the water was supplied by the Chichester Water Works, and the milk being in all cases exceptionally good, the principal conclusion I can come to is that the combination of poverty and dirt, or, in other words, bad and insufficient food, and a persistent disregard to cleanliness, forms the most fertile soil for this disease to develop itself; consequently the chief safeguards towards warding off the disease is good and wholesome food, and a scrupulous attention to cleanliness *in every particular*, and to satisfactory outside sanitary arrangements; and I may here mention, that I have lately observed a vast improvement in the anxiety of the lower classes whose cottages are drained, and supplied with the Corporation Water, with regard to their keeping their back premises sweet and clean, and they look upon those of their neighbours who are not so favoured, and who are still oblivious to the virtues of soap and water, as a disgrace to the community.

“But while we are unable to discover any positive temporary cause for this malady, we can have little hesitation in following the opinion of Dr. Bulstrode and other Bacteriologists, in looking for it in the general *foul condition of the soil*, the pollution of which has been so long allowed to continue and increase by the long delayed extinction of the pernicious cess-pit

[illegible]

system, and it is consequently desirable, on all rational grounds, that the Sanitary Authority of the City should as early as possible possess itself, and arm its Sanitary officers with *full legal compulsory powers* for the closing of all those obnoxious and insalubrious receptacles that are still in existence, in order that we may hand down to posterity a much purer and healthier soil than that which we have ourselves inherited.

“ I beg respectfully to conclude with my former request, that three public urinals be supplied to the City, one somewhere near to the Cross, and one each at Northgate and Southgate.

“ I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

“ Your very obedient Servant,

“ CHARLES STURGES JONES,

“ *Medical Officer of Health.*”





system, and it is consequently desirable on all rational grounds, but the Sanitary Authority of the City should be only as possible possess itself, and even the Sanitary officers with full legal compulsory powers for the closing of all those houses and insubordinate receptacles that are still in existence, in order that we may hand down to posterity a much purer and healthier soil than that which we have ourselves inherited.

"I beg respectfully to conclude with my former request, that three public animals be supplied to the City, one somewhere near to the Cross, and one each at Northgate and Southgate."

"I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,  
Your very obedient servant."

CHARLES STURGES JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.

